

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NIC-01

ACDA-19 SAJ-01 EB-11 FEA-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /127 W

----- 089701

R 301534Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9284

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: PONOMAREV IS BACK AND DETENTE MARCHES ON

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

REF: MOSCOW 7883 (NOTAL)

1. PONOMAREV AND PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION RETURNED TO MOSCOW MAY 30 APPARENTLY WELL-PLEASSED WITH THEIR U.S. VISIT. PONOMAREV AND OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP TOLD DCM ON ARRIVAL THAT THEY WERE GRATIFIED BY CORDIAL RECEPTION THEY WERE GIVEN.

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2. SINCE OUR LAST REPORT (REFTEL) SOVIET PRESS HAS CONTINUED HEAVY AND POSITIVE TREATMENT OF THE VISIT. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA MAY 29, FOR EXAMPLE, EXULTS THAT EVEN DURING VISIT ITSELF TEMPO OF RELATIONS HAS PICKED UP, CITING INTER ALIA CREDITS FOR FERTILIZER COMPLETED. IN ADDITION TO EMPHASIZING THE FAMILIAR DETENTE THEMES, PONOMAREV HAS BEEN QUOTED IN VARIOUS JOURNALS AS STRESSING FACT THE OFFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO PARLIAMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED. TASS STORY IN PRAVDA MAY 29 HAS PONOMAREV HANDLING MFN ISSUE GINGERLY BY SAYING THAT "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN U.S. ARE DRAGGING FEET.

3. OTHER SOVIET PARTY LEADERS HAVE ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF TIES WITH U.S. DURING PAST WEEK. KIRILENKO IN YUGOSLAVIA MAY 28 DEVOTED TWO PARAGRAPHS TO SUBJECT. WHILE NOTING THAT TWO COUNTRIES PROCEED FROM OPPOSITE SOCIAL POLES, HE SAID THERE IS NO SAFE ALTERNATIVE TO BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS. KIRILENKO NOTED HIS SATISFACTION THAT FRATERNAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ALSO SEE IT THAT WAY. KATUSHEV, IN ELECTION SPEECH MAY 29, CALLED IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS ONE OF KEY ASPECTS OF DETENTE AND IN INTEREST OF WHOLE WORLD.

4. SOVIET PRESS HAS BEGUN TO MARK SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST SUMMIT MEETING. NEW TIMES COMMENTARY IN MAY 31 ISSUE IS STRONGLY UPBAT, NOTING SUPPORT FOR BILATERAL DETENTE ON BOTH SIDES AND EMPHASIZING NEED TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM. COMMENTARY MENTIONED FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR "EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE" ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, AND STRESSED "PRACTICAL NECESSITY" FOR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT.

5. PRESS COVERAGE OF MAY 29 ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS HAS BEEN RATHER STRANGE. A LONG TASS COMMENTARY BY S. LOSEV ON THE PRINCIPLES WAS PUBLISHED MAY 29 IN THE LENINGRAD AND KISHINEV PAPERS, BUT NOT IN THE MOSCOW PRESS. WHILE GENERALLY FAVORABLE ON U.S. ATTITUDES, IT DOES MAKE NEGATIVE POINTS THAT U.S. HAS DEVIATED FROM THE PRINCIPLES IN ITS ALERT LAST OCTOBER, IN THE INCREASE IN ITS DEFENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUDGET, AND IN THE EFFORTS OF "FOES OF DETENTE" TO DENY MFN AND CREDITS. THESE NEGATIVE ASPECTS MAY ACCOUNT FOR WHY TASS COMMENTARY HAS NOT APPEARED IN MOSCOW. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IT WAS NOT CARRIED ON TASS ENGLISH WIRE EITHER, WHICH INSTEAD RAN A BLANDLY POSITIVE PIXRE ON THE PRINCIPLES. STOESEL

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